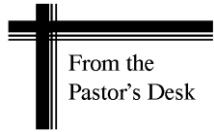


Pilgrim's Progress

July 2023

"The purpose of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ, for the object of sharing in the worship of God and in making His will dominant in the lives of men and women, especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."



The Spiritual Discipline for the month of July is Stewardship, and it is a difficult yet timely issue. Consider the challenges you have faced this past month. Have you felt overloaded with responsibilities, had trouble paying bills, keeping up with appointments, unexpected expenses or not enough rest. All of those issues involve time or money, and both time and money are spiritual disciplines. The wise use of time is Scriptural, for "now is the time of the Lord's favor" (2 Corinthians 6:2). I find if I start with even a short time of prayer before I start my day the rest seems to fall in place. It doesn't mean that I have a great day every time I pray, but somehow, I am better prepared to face the challenges of the day when I pray.

Regarding money, giving to the Lord's word is a personal decision that reflects the sovereignty of God. Several Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:26 is just one) report that God owns everything and everyone, including us. Giving to the church and to need is a recognition of that, but it must be personal. The Apostle Paul's advice was let "each man give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) This is something you settle with the Lord during your time of prayer in the beginning of the day. Try it and see what happens, may God bless you in the midst of all the challenges of the day.

Pastor Dan

Sermons-

- July 2 "The Gift of Freedom" Exodus 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 3:17
- July 9 "The Greatness of God" 1 Kings 19:9-18; Matthew 14:22-23
- July 16 Janet Collison leads both worship services
- July 23 "Fear & Evil" Exodus 1:6-14; James 1:14-16
- July 30 "The Fork in the Road of Life" Luke 5:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5



Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers:



- Bickford:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108,
- Mill Pond Care Center:** Romaine Mackaman
- Southridge:** Betty Runner #212,
- Glenwood Place:** Jan More #132, Mildred Lathrop #145, Lenora Brown #147, Iva Howard #164, Bonnie Pappas #112, Marian Gerdes #166, Anita Niehouse #116
- Willows of Marshalltown:** Evelyn Thompson



Bob & Judy Gaynor	July 1, 2006 (17)
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991 (32)
John & Lisa Beaty	July 9, 2004 (19)
Nay & Nan Liew	July 12, 2010 (13)
Ken & Darcie Lunsford	July 14, 1984 (39)



July 4	Kaisa Stanley	July 20	Krystal Randall
July 5	Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver	July 22	Kim Ferneau, Susan Ferneau, Courtney Mentor
July 6	Bev Swenson	July 24	Max Meyer
July 8	Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer	July 26	Jonathan Howell, Margaret Otte(104)
July 12	David Dickey	July 27	Larry Good, Danielle Propst
July 14	Al Hays, Eric Fruin	July 28	Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann,
July 16	Gary Heggen	July 31	Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden
July 19	Julie Squiers		



News from Diaconate Board

July 16th Janet Collison will be leading both services and sharing her harp music with us while Pastor Dan is on vacation.

July will be Christmas in July. There will be Christmas hymns and special music. The Christmas season is so hurried that we don't get to enjoy the hymns of the season.

Pastor Dan will be on vacation for 2 Sundays in August. Harlan Nuss will fill the pulpit.



The organ rebuild is nearing completion. Levsen decided to save some time by bringing the console early and cleaning the pipes. Once the organ chambers are complete Levsen will be back to install all the pipes and make all the electrical connections. Gary and Pat are anxious to try out all the new organ features. We thank Mike Woltjer for coordinating the facility changes.



Women's Ministry Summer Calendar

General Meetings:

July 3 No meeting due to the holiday
August 7 5:30 Activity: Fun and Origami picture frames with Deborah Nuss

Bible Study with Jane Everyone is welcome anytime.

July 10 5:30 in the Fellowship Room
July 24 No meeting due to Vacation Bible School.
August 14 5:30 Begin new study
August 28 5:30

Please join us whenever you are able. We would enjoy having you!
Prayers, Julie Paustian



First Congregational Church Choir

Choir practice is Friday, June 30 at 5:30.
Sunday, July 2 at 10:00
Friday, July 7 at 5:30
Sunday, July 9 at 10:00
We share in the Sunday service on July 2 and July 9.

Come! Many voices make much joy!

**" Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
come before his presence with singing."
*Psalm 100***



News from Missions and Benevolence



The mission's team is still committed to doing our part for Meals on Wheels in Marshalltown! Our part is; one Saturday a month (the fourth Saturday) and we do the east route. What's new and exciting is that we now go to the new hospital and pick up and our old blue route has become the east route. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office (641-752-4239) to volunteer. You will be making a difference for someone that day and it feels good to help out. Any questions please call me Kristi Hassler 641-753-3276 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

Open 2023 Dates

September 23

October 28

November 25

December 23



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Adult Bible Study opportunities!

Pastor Dan leads a Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Adult Ed. room. This summer he is leading everyone in a study of the book of Revelations. The Chosen Bible study group is watching season 2 of the tv series called "The Chosen" where they get to experience Jesus and His walk with His disciples. They will also have a time of Bible study that goes along with the series. Please contact Shelly Speas with any questions. They will meet on Sunday, July 30th at 6pm. There is a women's Bible Study led by Jane Ver Mulm that meets on Monday nights a couple times a month. They will meet on July 10th at 5:30pm in the library. The study is called "Following Jesus" and we would love to have more join in! It's easy to jump into!

All the women of our church are invited to come to Women's Ministry on Monday, August 7th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is so important for us women to meet together to grow in our friendship and faith through fun times, service projects, giving and receiving encouragement from one another, and praying together!



What Does Renewal Look Like?

Kim Schryver, Vision to Mission Task Force Chair, 7- 2023



Sunny smiles like the card face on a recent collaboration between the Card Club, Lydia Speas and the Youth Group. These adorable encouragements will be shared with our members in long-term care facilities. And they may possibly be shared with our My Kinsman Ministry friends and inspirations in Sierra Leone. Can't you imagine our nursing home members and young Africans receiving such a bright message reminding them that FCC Youth care for them! This project is evidence of real effort invested in **intergenerational relationships** within the church and **collaborative coordination between committees**. It is an investment in intra-church and extra-church mission between working groups.

Beautiful commitment and camaraderie are evident among the participants in the Women's Fellowship and Women's Bible Study – renewed endeavors since the pandemic. These revivals of fellowship and enrichment are fostering **spiritual formation and missional projects**.

Spirit-filled music continues, but how about the revival of a choir! Even with the massive disruption caused by restoration of FCC's organ, the Music Committee has engaged a wider participation. We love how our fellow pew partners can transform a service by sharing their **inspired worship** through music in ever expanding ways.

These are a few examples of *new* initiatives that have gained some real sticking power. There are innumerable evidences of growing vigor and sense of purpose in longer-standing projects, programs and relationship-building. Our prayers are for continued growth into the people God is calling us to be.

In the coming months, a **Vision to Mission** Task Force (appointed by the Cabinet in late March) will be investing time in conversations with various committees, boards and gatherings. A survey will be conducted during these meetings. The objective will be to try to discern the heart-felt callings by God within these working, learning and fellowship groups. Task Force members will lead the exercises, record responses of those participating and help the groups identify a few common aspirations within their membership. From these results the Task Force will identify the 1-2 most common areas of interest across all groups to develop within our church at this moment in time. Our work will be submitted to the FCC Cabinet in November 2023 in the form of a recommendation of focus for our church in the next 1-2 years. The Cabinet can adopt or amend the recommendation. A Mission Statement for 2024-25 or 2024-26 will be proposed to the church membership for adoption at the Annual Meeting in 2024.

This mission statement will be an encouragement to committees to include work together with the whole membership toward a common outcome(s) that will help to make our FCC Vision – What We Believe God Is Calling Us to Be, a reality. All the work that individuals and committees are doing to further knowing God, learning to be disciples, worshipping in the Spirit, actively exercising benevolence and missions, etc. will continue in the exciting ways evident now. A focused mission statement, identified by the church membership, will impart new motive force, common purpose and cooperation to our decision making and resource investment in the next couple of years. A mission emphasis will also help us share the story of FCC more effectively with others.



Youth Group News

Our NAPF/HOPE group had a drive through dinner fundraiser at the beginning of June. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the group and made this fundraiser a big success!!



We want to celebrate the special youth God has placed in our church and so we are taking them out for birthday treats this year. Here are some of our youth with spring/summer birthdays.



Our youth group put up flags for Flag Day as a youth group fundraiser through the Morning Optimist Club. What a wonderful opportunity this is for our group!



In June we had a wonderful sunny day around a campfire with our middle school and high school youth groups eating loose meat sandwiches and roasting s'mores with a devotional to end the night.

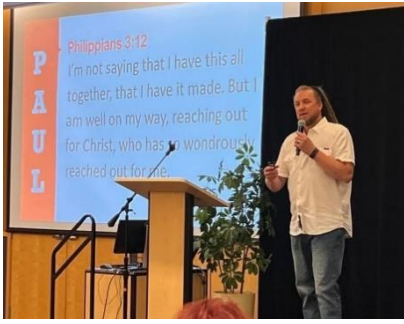


We had pizza, popcorn, and watched a Christian movie with our elementary youth group in June.



What a blessing NAPF/HOPE was this year! We went to Milwaukee, WI for our national youth mission conference and stayed at Alverno College. We had the pleasure of getting to hear from Joseph Leggett who was our speaker for the week. Joseph is the Family Minister of FCC in Spencer IA. We also had the wonderful opportunity to serve God and the residents of Milwaukee with Habitat for Humanity and a free clothing store called Father Gene's Help Center. We are very excited because two of our young people were elected to be part of the planning team for next year's conference which will be in Spokane, Washington. Kasie Brandt will serve as the HOPE officer and Libby Meyer will be one of the NAPF leaders in training. We will be presenting our trip during a 10:30am worship service coming up sometime this summer. We are so grateful to everyone who financially and prayerfully supported our group going to this amazing conference!





Vacation Bible School is a wonderful time of fun with our kiddos as they learn and grow in their knowledge of God and His Word and their relationship with their Lord and Savior Jesus! First Congregational Church will be hosting VBS for kids ages 4-12 years old. Sunday, July 23-Thursday, July 27th 2023, 5:30-8:15pm with a meal each night! This year's theme is Twists and Turns where kids will play their way through VBS learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives.

We can have a maximum of 60 students so everyone must pre-register please either online or they can request a paper registration from Shelly Speas.

There is no Power Hour, DOG's, Jr PY or PY for July. But we will be having some special events coming up to be announced soon.



Independence Day is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.



As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. – 1 Peter 2:16 KJV

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. – 2 Corinthians 3:17 KJV

1 Peter 2:16 ESV

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

John 8:32 ESV

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

An American flag is shown waving against a cloudy sky. The flag is positioned on the right side of the image, with its top corner near the top center. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. In the bottom left corner, there are some dark, spiky plants.

Blessed is the nation
whose **God** is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

Psalm 33:12

*Until She Flies
Heike McDaniel*



2023

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
 Sunday Worship Services:
 8:00am & 10:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239				
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards						1
2 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc ABS 9:15am	3	4 	5 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	6	7	8
9 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc ABS 9:15am	10 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	11 8:45am BMC meet	12 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	13	14	15
16 Guest Speaker: Janet Collison In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc 11:45am BCE	17	18	19 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	20 6:30pm Trustees meet	21	22 11am MOW Volunteer: Jonna & Wayne Wager
23 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc ABS 9:15am VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	24 VBS	25 VBS	26 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee VBS	27 VBS	28	29
30 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc ABS 9:15am Chosen Bible Study 6:00pm	31					



First Congregational Church
312 W. Main St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon - Fri
641-752-4239
Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in
the LOFT
web page: www.fcmarshaltown.org

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